

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~ [REDACTED]

~~UNINTEL~~

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FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST AREA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 30 AUGUST 1990.

CONTENTS

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. IRAN: SEEKING MOVEMENT ON THE HOSTAGE ISSUE [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]

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~~NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~ [REDACTED]

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Date December 1997

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Exemptions: Not Relevant

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7. IRAN: SEEKING MOVEMENT ON THE HOSTAGE ISSUE [REDACTED]

PRESIDENT RAFSANJANI IS TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF IRAQ BY ENCOURAGING MOVEMENT TOWARD RESOLVING THE LEBANESE HOSTAGE SITUATION. ON SATURDAY, ACCORDING TO FRENCH PRESS REPORTS, THE PRO-RAFSANJANI TEHRAN TIMES URGED THE WEST TO RESPOND TO THE RELEASE OF IRISH HOSTAGE BRIAN KEENAN BY PRESSING ISRAEL TO

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 004 *****/

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FREE SHAYKH OBEID AND OTHER ARAB PRISONERS BUT DID NOT REPEAT TEHRAN'S DEMAND FOR RELEASE OF FOUR IRANIANS IT CLAIMS ARE PRISONERS IN LEBANON. (S NF)

COMMENT: RAFSANJANI RECOGNIZES THAT THE GULF CRISIS HAS RAISED IRAN'S STOCK IN THE WEST AND PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. THE REPORTED OMISSION BY THE TEHRAN TIMES OF DEMANDS REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRANIAN HOSTAGES SUGGESTS RAFSANJANI IS PREPARED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE, DESPITE CONTINUED CALLS BY IRANIAN HARDLINERS FOR RELEASE OF THE IRANIANS.

8.



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